

## African dancer teaches at MSSD

Of all the experiences of his career, Assane Konte, internationally famous performer and teacher of West African dance, believes that teaching MSSD students has been the most memorable.

"I have taught dance all over the world, but these students will be my most remembered—especially for their attention, concentration and eagerness to learn," he said.

Konte, who is teaching at MSSD for nine weeks this semester, said that he had wanted to work with deaf students for a long time.

"Deaf students are easier for me to work with than hearing students," he said. "Hearing students pay more attention to the drums and less attention to the teacher. Deaf students are just the opposite. They pay attention to me, and they learn faster and better. They are also curious to learn about the background of dances—the history, culture and ethnic traditions the dances represent."

He hopes one day to return to his home country to establish training programs for deaf youths there.

A native of Senegal, West Africa, Konte began his dance training at the age of 12. He started dancing with the Ballet African de Diebel Guee of Dakar when he was 15. Ten years later, he began teaching dance on the Ivory Coast.

He came to the United States in 1978 to pursue a career in performing, musical arrangement, staging and choreography. He worked as a teacher and choreographer with the Koumpo West African Dance Company in San Diego, Calif.

In the early 1980s, Konte founded and began directing the Washington D.C.-based KanKouran West African Dance Company.

According to Marcia Freeman, dance

director in the MSSD Performing Arts Department, Konte's program presented a long-awaited opportunity for the school. "We were searching for just the right program in African dance. When Assane offered to teach this course, there was no doubt in our minds that his was the cultural and historical presentation of African dance that we wanted."

On June 5, under Konte's direction, selected MSSD students joined the KanKouran dance company to perform three major pieces as part a free public performance.

The dance classes and performance have been supported by a grant from the Washington, D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Special Constituency Program.



Assane Konte, an internationally known performer and teacher of West African dance, works with MSSD students.

## Shadowing program gives MSSD students career insight

"Shadowing," a term usually connected with James Bond-like activities, has assumed a more ordinary and practical meaning for career-oriented students at MSSD.

The school's shadowing program, part of the Special Opportunities Program, is now a career development course providing MSSD students opportunities to explore careers in on- and off-campus employment settings.

The concept of shadowing involves students observing individuals in the work place as they carry out their routine tasks and use work-related materials.

Rich Pelletier, an instructor with MSSD's Special Opportunities Program who proposed integrating shadowing as a regular part of the curriculum each spring semester, called the course "a huge success."

"The responses of students and

workers who are involved in the program have been tremendously positive. We have actually moved beyond observation alone to letting students actually participate in carrying out job duties," he said.

These activities afford MSSD students the opportunity to step out of the classroom and into the work world where they can learn about careers firsthand, he explained.

### Lee receives award

The People to People Committee for the Handicapped honored Gallaudet President Jerry C. Lee last month for his work at the University.

Dr. Lee received the committee's One of a Kind Award at a luncheon May 19 at the Washington Hilton. He was

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"Many times students have expressed enthusiasm for certain jobs, only to find out through the shadowing experience that the jobs were not what TV or magazines portrayed them to be. Personal involvement soon lets the students know which kinds of work they are suited for and which jobs might be too difficult or boring and so on."

According to Pelletier, the course's success ensures its continuation. "From this pilot project, we can expect to expand shadowing. As more Gallaudet people become aware of the program, more will participate—taking advantage of students' abilities to help carry out various job responsibilities. We hope that the program will eventually lead to part-time jobs for some MSSD students," he said.

Anyone interested in more information about the shadowing program should call Pelletier, x5033.



First Lady of Portugal Maria de Jesus Barroso Soares, second from right, talks with, from left, Wilton McMillan and Tim McCarty of MSSD. Also pictured are interpreter Greg Haretos, Mrs. Soares' assistant and Rita Bastos, the wife of the ambassador of Portugal. Mrs. Soares toured the University during her recent visit.

## Creative writing awards presented

In presenting certificates to the 15 entrants in the eighth annual MacDougall Creative Writing Awards competition, Gallaudet President Jerry C. Lee remarked that the students offer proof that deafness is no barrier to achieving excellence in English.

Dr. and Mrs. Lee hosted a reception May 11 at House One for the contestants and various members of the campus community.

Junior Glenn Devlin was the first place winner. William Reinig, a junior psychology major, and Kim Sarkisian, a sophomore history major, tied for second place. Freshman Jeanna Lindgren and junior Raymond Luczak, an English major, tied for third place. Devlin, Reinig and Lindgren have not yet declared their majors.

This year's judges were Will Madsen,

associate professor of sign communication; Ellen Beck, instructor of English; and Myra Peabody of Peabody Fitzpatrick Communications, an area public relations firm. John Canney, associate professor of English and coordinator of the MacDougall Awards, was also a judge.

The competition was established in 1979 by entertainer Nanette Fabray, her son, Jamie MacDougall, and the Writers Guild Foundation. Founded in honor of Fabray's late husband, Randy, who was a successful screen writer, the awards competition recognizes promising young writers at Gallaudet.

In a letter to the competing students, Fabray sent her congratulations and expressed regret that a prior commitment prevented her from attending the awards presentation.



## You & Your Job

Employees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) will be able to change from CSRS to the new Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) during open season July 1-Dec. 31.

Because the decision to stay with CSRS or transfer to FERS is an important one that can not be reversed, employees are encouraged to give it careful consideration. Every effort should be made to understand which system is better suited to each individual's situation.

Both are good—but very different—retirement systems. CSRS provides excellent benefits to employees who retire after a federal career. FERS offers more portability and flexibility. While both systems allow employees to participate in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), there are more options under FERS.

Social Security coverage is part of FERS. In deciding whether to transfer to FERS, employees might want to check on how much Social Security coverage they have. The Social Security Administration has prepared a special form for employees to use in requesting this information. The forms are available in the Personnel Office in College Hall Room 7. It will take Social Security about 30 days to provide an earnings history.

All eligible employees should have received a copy of the "FERS Transfer Handbook." The handbook explains the major differences between the two systems. Anyone who hasn't received a copy of the book should contact Kayt Lewis at x5111.

The Personnel Office will provide further information. Workshops are being planned and captioned videotapes will be available for overnight viewing. Information regarding individualized computer analyses also will be forthcoming.

### Group honors Lee

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presented a plaque for his efforts in elevating Gallaudet to university status and for promoting education and services for deaf people throughout the world.

The award was one of five presented at the luncheon.



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Will Madsen of the Sign Communication Department congratulates Raymond Luczak, who tied for third place in the MacDougall Creative Writing Awards competition. Also pictured are English instructor Ellen Beck, William Reinig, who was one of the second place winners, and Gallaudet President Jerry C. Lee.

## Announcements

Sign Language Associates, Inc., (SLA) will offer classes in beginning conversational sign language for teenagers. Morning and afternoon classes will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays at Wheaton High School in Wheaton, Md., and at the Carlyle Suites Hotel in Northwest Washington. For more information, call SLA at 861-0593 (V/TDD).

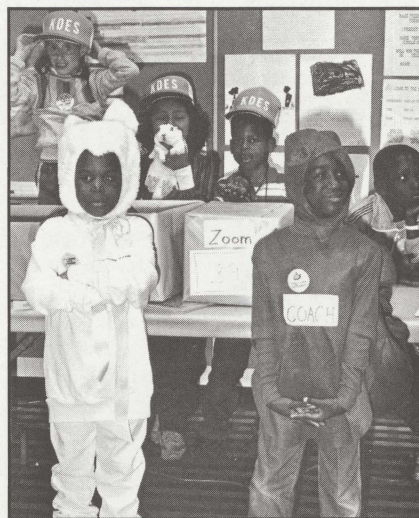
The Arena Theater will present a sign-interpreted performance of Arthur Miller's "The Crucible" on July 9. For more information, call the Arena Stage Box Office at 488-3300 (V) or 484-0247 (TDD).

Stage Left, Inc., will present sign-interpreted performances of "Dragon by the Tale" at the Prince George's Public Playhouse on July 19 at 7:30 p.m. and July 23 at 8 p.m. For more information, call the administrative office at 277-1711 (V/TDD) or the box office at 277-1710 (V/TDD).

The Association on Handicapped Student Service Programs in Postsecondary Education will hold its tenth national conference in Washington, D.C., July 22-25. The conference will include a special plenary session with Frank G. Bowe, chair of the Commission on Education of the Deaf and author of the book, "Changing the Rules." The preregistration deadline for the conference is June 20. For more information, contact Linda Donnels, Disabled Student Services, George Washington University, Rice Hall, Suite 401,

Washington, D.C., 20052, 994-8250 (V/TDD) or William Scales, 454-5028 (V/TDD).

The second national conference of Deaf Women United will be held Aug. 5-9 at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. The conference theme is "Diversity ... Growing Together." For a registration form or more information, write to Kathy Jankowski, coordinator, Deaf Women United, 1350 Potomac Avenue SE, Washington, D.C. 20003, or call 675-6700 (V/TDD).



The first place Primary Department winners in the KDES science fair are, front, Tacia Carter and Lavon Oliver and, back row left to right, Carrie Waldman, Julie Kay Martin, Edward Lowe and Wesley Chase. The students, who are in Judy Giannotti's class, worked on a project on the tortoise and the hare.

## Students recognized for theater work

The Theatre Arts Department presented awards to 12 Gallaudet students during its 28th Annual Awards Presentation and reception last month at Elstad Auditorium.

Three students were presented awards for outstanding performance by an actor or actress in a leading role. Jerry Koonce, who played the part of Napoleon in "Animal Farm," Cayetano Adamo, who played Babberly in "Charley's Aunt," and Caryn Spall, who portrayed Squealer in "Animal Farm," received that honor.

David Martin, who played Boxer in "Animal Farm," received the award for outstanding performance by an actor in a supporting role.

The award for outstanding perfor-

mance by an actress in a cameo role went to Mary Chimelak, who played the parts of Hen and Minimus in "Animal Farm."

Deborah White was named the University's most promising actress while David Martin was recognized for outstanding use of American Sign Language during the 1986-87 season.

Patricia Souza and Desiree Cipriano were honored for outstanding contributions to technical theater. The production award in costuming was presented to Kim Rarus, Jennifer Miller and Stephanie Kaufmann.

MaryAnn Smudzinski received the final award, for outstanding achievement in box office management.

## MSSD students invited to attend national meeting

Eight students from MSSD have been selected to participate in this year's Deaf Women United Conference, which for the first time has invited high school females.

Attending the conference from MSSD will be Orangel Butler, Sharon Edwards, Chauntice Green, Elizabeth Horvath, Stephanie Brown, Teena Miers, Erin Wingenroth and Raychelle Harris.

The Community Outreach Division of Deaf Pride in Washington, D.C., which received a grant from the Ms. Foundation in New York, is sponsoring the young women's participation in the bi-annual conference.

In preparation for the conference, the MSSD students attended five pre-conference training meetings designed to develop the students' awareness of themselves as young deaf women, increase their knowledge of the barriers that separate deaf women and develop a strategy for continued work together. The training sessions were conducted by Deafpride.

Scheduled for Aug. 5-9, the Deaf Women United 1987 Conference will be held at George Mason University in Virginia.

## Classified Ads

**FOR SALE:** Dark wood bedroom set, includes dresser, mirror, headboard and night stand, very good cond., \$400. Call TDD only, 566-6716 days or 794-8409 eves.

**FOR RENT:** Condo in Ocean City, Bayside off 94th St. 2-BR, 2 1/2 baths, AC, W/D, HBO. Available for weekends in Sept., some weeks in June and Aug. Tie in with Maryland Association of the Deaf Convention, Aug. 28-29. Call Terry, 868-7593 (V/TDD) eves.

**WANTED:** Unfurnished room in house or apt. close to Metro. Can move in immediately. Glenna, TDD only, 287-1905 days or 474-6735 eves.

**FOR RENT:** Mobile home in Fenwick Island, Del. 2-BR, 2 full baths, AC, W/D, sleeps 6, \$50 per night. Call Dwight, 498-4521 (TDD) eves.

**WANTED:** Housesitting job in metro area from now through Aug. 29. References furnished upon request. Write Denise, campus P.O. Box 1372.

**FOR SALE:** Townhouse end unit in Greenbelt/NASA area, 3-BR, 2 1/2 baths, CAC, exc. cond., \$85,000. Call 552-2824 (V) days and eves.

## Job Openings

The list below includes only new staff and faculty openings and does not represent all jobs available. To get a recorded message describing the complete list, call x5358 or x5359 (TDD).

**COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST/SPEECH PATHOLOGIST:** KDES

**MATHEMATICS TEACHER:** MSSD

**SPEECH/LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST:**

Audiology and Speech/Language Pathology

**ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR/RECRUITER (UNDERGRADUATE):** Admissions and Recruitment

**ADVERTISING COORDINATOR/WRITER:** Public Relations

**RESEARCH SCIENTIST II:** Center for Auditory and Speech Sciences

**DATA/ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST:**

Extension and Summer Programs

**INSURANCE ASSISTANT:** Student Health Services

**WORD PROCESSING SPECIALIST:** Office of Sponsored Programs

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR:** Educational Foundations and Research

**INSTRUCTOR/ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF COMMUNICATION:** School of Preparatory Studies